

18th Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

53rd Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 53rd Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment

6th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment

2nd Bn. The Cambridgeshire Regiment

54th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 54th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment

4th Bn. The Suffolk Regiment

5th Bn. The Suffolk Regiment

55th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 55th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

1st Bn. The Cambridgeshire Regiment

1st/5th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment)

Divisional Troops

18th Reconnaissance Bn. (The Loyal Regiment), The Reconnaissance Corps ⁽²⁾

9th Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

118th (8th London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

(H.Q., 259th (23rd London), 260th (24th London) & 483rd Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

135th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 336th (Northampton), 344th (Hitchin) & 499th Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

148th (The Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

(H.Q., 419th (Bedford), 420th (Bedford) & 512th Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

125th (Northumbrian) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

(H.Q., 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers (8)

287th Field Company, Royal Engineers

288th Field Company, Royal Engineers

560th Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

251st (East Anglia) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

18th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (10)

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (11)

53rd Infantry Brigade Group Company, Royal Army Service Corps

54th Infantry Brigade Group Company, Royal Army Service Corps

55th Infantry Brigade Group Company, Royal Army Service Corps

18th Infantry Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 1st Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps (12)

196th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

197th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

198th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

18th Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (13)

18th Divisional Ordnance Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

16th Mobile Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

18th Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

18th Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The 18th Infantry Division was a second line Territorial Army division raised in 1939 as a duplicate of the 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Division. However, it comprised first line units, as the 54th Division divided on geographical basis. It was not deployed to France, remaining in the U.K. The division left the U.K. on 28 October 1941 under the command of Major General M. G. BECKWITH-SMITH. The original intention was for the division to be sent to the Middle East, but with the military threat from the Japanese, it was diverted to the Far East. It arrived in India on 27 December 1941. The divisional headquarters sailed from India on 18 January 1942, originally bound for Burma, but it was diverted again, this time to Singapore, where it arrived on 29 January 1942. The divisional headquarters were preceded by the 53rd Infantry Brigade, which arrived at Singapore on 13 January 1942. This brigade was deployed in southern Malaya. The next convoy arrived on 25 January 1942 with some motor transport and carriers for the division. The rest of the division arrived with the divisional headquarters on 29 January 1942. The division was deployed immediately in Singapore, but was captured on 15 February 1942 when the British and Commonwealth Forces in Singapore surrendered.
2. The reconnaissance battalion joined the division as a motor cycle battalion on 13 January 1941. It was then the:
5th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (West Lancashire)
This battalion was a first line Territorial Army battalion based in Bolton. It was converted into a reconnaissance battalion and redesignated on 26 April 1941.
3. This battalion was the machine gun battalion attached to the division. It was a second line unit, formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 7th Battalion and was based at Alnwick. It joined this division shortly before it left the United Kingdom.
4. The Commander Royal Artillery was Brigadier Hubert Coltart SERVAES.
5. Transferring from the 12th Infantry Division, this regiment joined the division on 30 June 1940.
6. This regiment was entitled The Bedfordshire Yeomanry in February 1942, shortly before it was captured.
7. This regiment joined the division on 4 July 1940, having been formed in July 1940 from the 125th (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. That regiment had originally been part of the 23rd Division, hence its title Northumbrian.
8. The Commander Royal Engineers for the division was Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. Barbe SYDENHAM.
9. This company was a war raised unit, which joined the division on 15 December 1939 to bring the Royal Engineers units up to establishment.
10. The Commander Royal Corps of Signals for the division was Lieutenant Colonel

11. The Commander Royal Army Service Corps for the division was Lieutenant Colonel Norman Alexander BARBER, R.A.S.C., T.A.. He was born in 1906 and commissioned in the Territorial Army in 1930. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1933, and served with the 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional R.A.S.C.. In 1939 he was promoted to the rank of Major, and served with the division in France and Belgium in May 1940. Possibly due to his recent operational experience, Major BARBER was promoted to the rank of Acting Lieutenant Colonel and given command of the R.A.S.C. elements of this division prior to it deploying overseas. The 18th Infantry Division was possibly the first division in the British Army to reorganise its R.A.S.C. units from an Ammunition, Petrol and Supply Column into three Brigade Supply Companies, and one additional R.A.S.C. Company to act as the Divisional Troops Supply Company. Usually, each R.A.S.C. company had a number allocated, irrespective of its role, however, the four companies allocated to this division were all designated by the formation they served, as shown on this Order of Battle. The War Diaries held at the National Archives (WO 166/963, WO/166/964, WO 166/966 and WO 172/85) all refer to these companies by their role designation as shown.
12. The Assistant Director of Medical Services for the division was Colonel Valentine Hutchinson WARDLE, M.C., T.D.
13. The Assistant Director of Ordnance Services for the division was Lieutenant Colonel Alwyne Tregelles HINGSTON. He was born on 26 March 1912, and commissioned in the Royal Artillery on 28 January 1932. HINGSTON was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 28 January 1935 and Acting Captain on 3 September 1939. Promotion to the rank of Captain took effect on 28 January 1940, to Acting Major on 2 May 1940, and Temporary Major on 2 August 1940. Finally, he was promoted to the rank of Acting Lieutenant Colonel on 11 April 1941, and Temporary Lieutenant Colonel six months later.

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